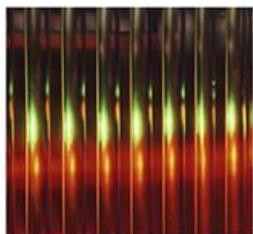


## Volunteer of the Month Jack McConnell

Most months we feature someone here who takes a few hours per week or month away from their day job to do some volunteer work in Asylum Hill that benefits the neighborhood and enriches their lives with the experience. However there are times when a little special help well placed, from someone who really knows what they are doing can be worth a lot. This month's volunteer is that kind of person, actually that kind of people. It's the husband and wife team of photographer Jack McConnell and his wife Paula McNamara his agent, archivist, bookkeeper and all around support staff that made the difference. It's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words, but a really good photo can be worth more than any words. It can say things that even words cannot. Jack has been a freelance photographer here in Hartford and around the world for the last 50 years and in that time he has amassed a collection of more than 250,000 images. Paula knows where they all are, and thanks to a twelve digit numbering system, she can find anyone of them in about a minute. Three of those were photos of the Comet Diner taken in the 1980's.





## COMET DINER **ICON AT RISK**



Paula ran across an article about the efforts of Hartford Preservation Alliance to save the Comet. She remembered the photos and together they produced three posters intended to raise awareness of the cultural value of this iconic landmark. They brought them to HPA. The posters are just the sort of thing that can go a long way toward raising awareness. Jack & Paula have been very generous over the years helping out various nonprofits, and photography like many of the fine arts gets a lot more requests for free services than say accounting. All in all though, life has been very good for both of them. They both are doing work they love, and at age 80, Jack recently took up playing electric bass to add to cartooning and short story writing as additional creative outlets. They both love Hartford, have been around long enough to see it's fortunes rise and fall, and they both feel optimistic now about it's future. We need more people like Jack & Paula.

To see Jack's excellent work, go to <http://jackmcconnellphotography.com> or any of the following; <http://www.connecticutstockphotography.com> ; <http://www.sevenknotsgallery.com> ; <http://www.stonewalljack.com> ; <http://www.awalkdownparkstreet.com> .